March 2, 2018

Re: **S.B. 9, An Act Concerning Connecticut's Energy Future**

Dear Chairman Winfield, Chairwoman Reed, Chairman Formica, Ranking Member Ackert, and Members of the Energy and Technology Committee:

Audubon Connecticut, the state office of the National Audubon Society, is one of Connecticut's premier conservation and environmental education organizations. Our organization has four Chapters and nearly 17,000 members, supporters, and partners across the state. We work on land stewardship, science, education, and advocacy, habitat preservation, and we also work to protect bird species that are of state, national and global concern. Our mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

In order to accomplish the goals that we have listed above, Connecticut must advance renewable energy efficiency efforts in order to meet greenhouse gas reduction requirements and remain a leader on climate change. There are 3 positions we'd like to highlight to the Committee:

- The proposed bill complements **S.B. 7** which has been referred to the Environment Committee. The proposal sets an interim target of a 45% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, ensuring Connecticut remains on a path to achieve an 80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 as mandated under the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA).

- We **support** the increase of the Renewable Portfolio Standard to 40% by 2030. Connecticut's RPS is the state's primary driver of investments in renewables and will help ensure the state's emission reduction goals under the GWSA are met.

- We **oppose** the elimination of net metering for residential and small-scale commercial solar. Every energy consumer should have the option to choose clean energy if the state is going to achieve its goals in reducing climate pollution.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you.

Genese Leach, Policy Manager